

additional fee required for the extension, and credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 06-1205.

II. This is in response to the Office Action dated January 31, 2001, the period for reply having been extended by the above petition and payment of the extension fee. Please amend the application as follows and consider the following remarks.

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 10-12, 20 and 25 to read as follows. A marked-up copy of claims 1, 2, 10-12, 20 and 25, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

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1. (Amended) A calcium fortified beverage composition consisting essentially of purified water and a hydrate form of calcium sulfate.

AI 2. (Amended) The calcium fortified beverage composition according to claim 1, wherein the hydrate form of calcium sulfate is calcium sulfate dihydrate.

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10. (Amended) A method for producing a calcium fortified beverage composition comprising:

A2 (a) combining a ready to drink beverage and a hydrate form of calcium sulfate to form a solution; and

(b) preserving the solution to form the calcium fortified beverage composition.

11. (Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein the hydrate form of calcium sulfate is calcium sulfate dihydrate.

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12. (Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein the amount of the hydrate form of calcium sulfate combined with the ready to drink beverage in step (a) is an amount sufficient to provide at least about 10% of U.S. RDV of calcium per serving.

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20. (Amended) A beverage composition consisting essentially of a nutritionally significant amount of calcium and purified water, wherein the beverage composition is produced by combining a hydrate form of calcium sulfate and purified water to form a solution.

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25. (Amended) The beverage composition according to claim 20 wherein the hydrate form of calcium sulfate is calcium sulfate dihydrate.

Remarks

The claims are 1-30, with claims 1, 10 and 20 being independent. Claims 1, 2, 10-12, 20 and 25 have been amended to better define the invention. In particular, the claims have been amended to specify that the calcium sulfate is a hydrate form of calcium sulfate. Support for this amendment can be found throughout the specification at, inter alia, page 7, lines 2-4, and the examples; Applicants submit that no new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the present claims is respectfully requested.